

AC. 4421(3)
II CN

AC. 4421(3)



HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. NORMAN-TAYLOR, M.D.(Lond.), D.P.H., D.I.H., (F.R.S.H.)

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

JOHN SNOWDON, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1972



CONTENTS

Members of the Council and Public Health Committee	2
Staff	3
<u>Report of the Medical Officer of Health</u>	4 - 5
<u>Section A</u> Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area	6
Causes of Death	7 - 8
Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases	9
<u>Section B</u> General Provisions of Health Services for the Area	10
Welfare Centres, Clinics and Hospitals	10 - 11
<u>Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector</u>	12
Summary of Inspections	12
General Sanitation	13 - 15
Factories Act, 1961	16 - 18
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	19 - 21
Control of Food and Food Premises	22 - 23
Housing	24 - 26
Housing Management	27
Petroleum Regulations	28

-----ooOoo-----



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29410903>

HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1972

Chairman :

Cllr. I.J. Fulton

Vice-Chairman:

Cllr. K.H. Bond, M.C.

Cllr. E.B. Ashton

Cllr. J.H.F. Fryd, C.A.

Cllr. A.S. Binning

Cllr. A.W. Hunt

Cllr. Mrs. J.B. Cornforth

Cllr. R.W. Meldrum

Cllr. W.E.A. Crowe

Cllr. J.I. Mitchell

Cllr. C.W. Curl

Cllr. K.F. Wood

Cllr. J.B. Dymoke

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn

Cllr. J.G. Fox

Public Health Committee

Chairman :

Cllr. J.B. Dymoke

Cllr. E.D. Ashton

Cllr. R.W. Meldrum

Cllr. W.E.A. Crowe

Cllr. J.I. Mitchell

Cllr. J.G. Fox

Cllr. K.F. Wood

Cllr. A.W. Hunt

Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

1972

W. Norman Taylor, M.D. (LOND), D.P.H., D.I.H., M.F.C.M., <u>F.R.S.H.</u>	Medical Officer of Health
P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health
J. Snowden, M.A.M.H.I.	Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.
G.T. Chaplin, M.A.P.H.I.	Deputy Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.
Miss E. Jackson	Student Public Health Inspector
R. Sturman	Housing Assistant
Miss M. Saunders	Typist
E. Dudley	Rodent Operative

Public Health Department,
Bleak House,
Catherine Street,
St. Albans, Herts

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1972

To: The Members of Harpenden Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, together with that of your Senior Public Health Inspector, for the year 1972, as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959.

This is the last but one report which will be written by the Medical Officer of Health of this District. Under the new Local Government Act, the post of Medical Officer of Health, a post which goes back over 100 years, will be discontinued as from 1st April, 1974. However, the actual functions under the heading of "public health" will still remain the responsibility of the successor district Council - in other words they will have the same job to do but the executive officer who has been responsible for these functions will no longer be on their staff. This is the culmination of a long series of moves in this direction going back over many years. One of these has been the greatly improved training and status of the health inspectorate, a profession in their own right, and capable of carrying out most of the duties provided that advice on the medical aspects of their work is available when required. The other has been the tendency for legislators in recent years not to put legal authority directly in the hands of officers (the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 are an example), but to place powers and duties with the Council itself, to act on the advice of their officers. At the time of writing we have had little or no guidance as to how this "advice" on the medical aspects of public health, is to be provided to the Council in the future, but the Council may rest assured that it will be forthcoming.

Quite apart from the Council, the public, as such, may be wondering who is to fill the role of Medical Officer of Health. To the public, the Medical Officer of Health is an authoritative figure in the background, keeping an ombudsman-like eye on matters which may pose a threat to the health of the citizens of the district. He is known to many members of the public, and his utterances on health topics are often eagerly sought after by the press. He is regarded as a sort of long-stop, a point beyond which the buck cannot be passed. Whether this view of the role of the Medical Officer is true or not, the fact remains that there will be a gap

in our social structure unless the new arrangements are such that a definite personality, with definite responsibilities, can emerge from the community health department of the reorganised National Health Service, to take his place.

In the pages which follow will be found details and figures which reflect the state of the public health, together with a record of what your health staff have been doing to maintain and, if possible, to improve this. On the whole I may say that we are a very average community, little better and no worse than most other places, and certainly there are no health problems for which this particular community can be directly blamed.

As in previous years, I must again draw attention to the strain being put on the financial resources of the National Health Service (i.e. the taxpayer) in having to devote so much time, energy and resources (not to mention the nervous strain on surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses) in attempting to treat lung cancer. Most of these cases are due to the patient's persistent self-pollution with cigarette smoke.

Another disease of self-indulgence, gonorrhoea, is, as will be seen in the statistics which follow, still very much with us and figures show little sign of improvement over the past years in spite of increased public education on the subject.

I am glad to report, on the other hand, that obesity, usually due to the persistent intake of calories over and above the body's requirements, appears to be on the decline, though the motivation is often cosmetic rather than concern with one's longevity. The obesity clinics set up by the County Council during the year to help persons who need to slim for medical reasons, appear to be meeting a great demand. Much more education is still needed among mothers (and friends and relations) so that they realize that it is not a kindness to give sweets to children except as a very occasional treat. Health experts are beginning to find evidence that sweets cause not only obesity and diabetes, and also rot the teeth, but that sugar is possibly linked with other more serious degenerative diseases of middle age.

Finally, I must thank Mr. J. Snowdon, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for the continued support he has given me and particularly for the zeal which he and his staff have shown in helping me to deal with the infectious diseases which occasionally pose a threat to the public.

I am, Mr. Chairman,

your obedient servant,

W. Norman-Taylor
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	24,550
Area in Acres	3,157
Number of Inhabited houses on the rate books	
Dwelling houses (including caravans)	8,351
Shops with living accommodation	40
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	26
Rateable Value (as at 1st April 1973)	£2,721,939
Sum represented by a new penny rate (as at 1st April 1973)	£36,900

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Harpenden</u> <u>U.D.C.</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
Live births - and Rate per 1,000 population	324	13.2	14.3	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births - and Rate % of total live births	12	4.0	-	9.0
Stillbirths - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	3	9.0	11.8	12.0
Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - Rate per 1,000 live births	3	9.0	13.4	17.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths - and Illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	22.4	21.0
Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 4 weeks of age) and Rate per 1,000 total live births	3	9.0	9.1	12.0
Early Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 1 week) and Rate per 1,000 total live births	1	3.0	8.0	10.0
Peri-Natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under one week) - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	4	12.0	19.6	22.0

There was a slight increase in the actual number of births (5) in the Urban District in 1972, and the birth rate showed a corresponding increase from 13.1 live births per 1,000 population in 1971 to 13.2 in 1972, compared with 14.3 for the County of Hertfordshire and 14.8 for England and Wales.

There were 3 stillbirths in 1972, compared with 5 in 1971, giving a stillbirth rate of 9.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 15.0 in 1971. Three children died under the age of 1, compared with 2 in 1971. This makes an infant mortality rate in 1972 of 9.0 per 1,000 live births, compared with 6.0 in 1971, both figures well below the national rate of 17.0, which in itself is the lowest ever recorded for England and Wales.

DEATHS

	<u>Harpenden</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Number of deaths :	225	-	-
Rate per 1,000 estimated population :	9.2	9.5	12.1
Comparability factor :	1.14	1.11	1.0
Adjusted death rate :	10.5	10.5	12.1

It will be seen that 225 people of all ages died in the Urban District during 1972, giving a crude death rate of 9.2 and a standardised death rate of 10.5. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 8.3 in 1971.

Fifty people died of cancers, 22 men and 28 women; of these 10 men and 13 women were under the age of 65. Of the total number 7 men and 5 women died from cancer of the lung. The total of 50 is an increase on the number reported in 1971. Despite fluctuations in the local figures the national figure has risen inexorably year by year, and now stands at 31,649. The habit of cigarette smoking is responsible for the vast majority of these deaths as well as contributing in large measure to the increasing mortality from coronary artery disease. 63 people died of coronary heart disease, 17 men were under the age of 65 and were still working.

The degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions, but unfortunately like so much good advice it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dietary control to avoid overweight, the taking of regular exercise and the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted, have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

Deaths from infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs. No deaths from infectious diseases were recorded during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	7	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	8
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	6
Avitaminoses etc.	1	-
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	1	2
Other diseases of Nervous System	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	42	21
Other forms of Heart Disease	1	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	15	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	9
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2
Asthma	1	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Diseases - Genite-Urinary System	3	-
Congenital Anomalies	1	1
Symptoms and Ill defined Conditions	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All other Accidents	2	-
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	2
All Other External Causes	-	1
<u>Total All Causes</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>114</u>

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases have been notified to the Medical Officer of Health :-

Food Poisoning	1
Measles	20
Infective Hepatitis	1
Dysentery	3

Tuberculosis :

During the year there were 3 cases of tuberculosis removed from the register. The state of the Tuberculosis Register in respect of Harpenden at the 31st December, 1972, was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
36	9	8	12	65

Venereal Diseases :

The number of new cases of venereal diseases in the St. Albans Division during the year were as set out below.

<u>Syphilis</u>		<u>Gonorrhoea</u>		<u>Other Genital Infections</u>		<u>Other Conditions</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
2	4	27	12	65	63	65	31	159	110

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics :

40, Luton Road	Wednesday Afternoons 1.45 - 4.00 p.m. (Doctor in attendance)
Health Suite Batford Junior School	2nd and 4th Thursday Afternoons 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. (Doctor in attendance)
Grove Road Health Annexe	Friday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. (Doctor in attendance on 2nd and 4th Friday)

The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy clinics are held at 40, Luton Road by appointment.

At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his helpful co-operation.

Hospitals :

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this hospital, and for this purpose the hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

Statistics :

Year ended 31st December, 1972.

Bed Complement	Surgical and Medical	13	<u>Total</u>
	Maternity	11	
	Geriatric	8	32
Average daily number of occupied beds			22.4
Admissions			771
Discharges			710
Deaths			63
Number of Births	Live	299	
	Stillbirths	-	
	Deaths	-	299

New PatientsAttendancesPhysiotherapy Dept.

Inpatients

252

1,789

Outpatients

671

9,109

Casualty Department

1,233

1,269

Specialist Consultations

818

2,289

Outpatients treated by

General Practitioners

274

274

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	Primary Inspections	294
	Re-visits	466
	Visits to:- Houses	449
	Business Premises	208
	Other Premises	103
	Visits re:- Repairs	156
	Drainage	127
	Infectious Diseases	131
	Smell Nuisances	55
	Noise Nuisances	76
	Smoke and Bonfires	28
	Other Nuisances	187
Housing Acts		78
Pest Control (By Rodent Operative)		697
Pest Control (By P.H.I.)		101
Factories Act		98
Petroleum Acts		45
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act		282
Miscellaneous Acts		13
Food Hygiene	Visits to:- Bakers and Confectioners	27
	Butchers	34
	Cafes and Canteens	69
	Dairies	2
	Fish Shops	11
	General Stores and Grocers	105
	Greengrocers	13
	Licensed Premises	4
		<hr/>
		265
		<hr/>
		2,321
		<hr/> <hr/>

GENERAL SANITATION

Complaints:

During the year 406 complaints of all types were received and of this number 230 related to infestations by rats and mice and 63 concerned wasps' and bees.

With the decline in the number of tenanted properties and the introduction of "Qualification Certificates" complaints from private tenants regarding property repairs are very seldom received. It is more usual for complaints either to be of a general nature affecting more than one person, or to be in respect of foodstuffs.

Water Supply:

The water supply for the whole area is supplied by a private undertaking, the Colne Valley Water Company, whose headquarters are at Watford.

The supply of water, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, is obtained from two boreholes, one in Shakespeare Road and one at East Hyde, which is just outside the District. The raw supply at both boreholes is chlorinated as a precautionary measure and no complaints were received as to taste or contamination.

Samples taken during the year were as follows :-

Bacteriological - main supply 22

Results in all cases were satisfactory. The degree of hardness is in the region of 25 and is such that no difficulties arise from plumbo-solvent action. Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply, direct to the house.

Sewerage:

The majority of properties in the district enjoy main drainage facilities and the sewage is treated at one main sewage works under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

The Works were modernised a few years ago and no complaints have been received regarding smell emanating from the Works.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the Sewage Works was 392,170,000 gallons, compared with 404,180,300 gallons in 1971 and 353,703,000 gallons five years ago.

Drainage and Cesspools:

127 visits were made for the purpose of testing and checking the drainage systems including cesspools. 29 cesspools are still in use in scattered parts of the district, and it will be some time before it is possible to connect these to main drainage. Very satisfactory arrangements still exist with the St. Albans Rural District Council for emptying cesspools in the area, and during the year 27 emptyings were carried out.

Common Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Multi-Occupation:

No evidence has been found of multi-occupation of dwellings where conditions could give rise to concern.

Public Swimming Bath:

The Council's open air swimming pool in Rothamsted Park continues to increase in popularity, and has indeed been a much appreciated amenity. Every possible effort is made to ensure that the water in the pool is kept to a satisfactory standard at all times, and twice daily tests at the pool are taken for this purpose. In addition, 28 samples of the water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and in no case was anything other than an extremely satisfactory result obtained.

Moveable Dwellings:

There are two caravan sites in the District; one is privately owned and licensed for sixteen caravans and the other is owned by the Council and provides accommodation for twelve caravans. Both sites are in situations where they do not impair local amenities, and they do help to satisfy a local demand.

Each site is provided with proper roadways, flush toilets, chemical closet disposal points, laundry facilities and electricity supplies to each caravan.

Periodic checks are made to ensure that the firefighting equipment provided is in satisfactory working order.

Notices:

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without the need for instituting legal proceedings.

⌘

Informal notices served during the year	34
Informal notices complied with by owners during the year	33
Formal notices served during the year	Nil
Formal notices complied with by owners during the year	Nil

⌘ Including notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Rodent Control:

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupants of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

230 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with, and treatment was carried out at 418 properties. For this purpose 798 visits were made. The Council employ one Rodent Operative for this work, Mr. E. Dudley.

Careful supervision of the Council's Depot and stores was maintained and any infestation of the Sewage works was dealt with by the Manager and the Rodent Operative.

Wasps' Nests:

68 complaints were received of wasps' and bees nests and these were treated. This compares with 295 complaints in 1971. These complaints are received over a comparatively short period of time at the height of the summer holiday season, and impose a great strain on the staff. A charge of 50p. is made for each treatment.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act :-

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	64	98	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworker's premises):	25	7	2	Nil
	—	—	—	—
	89	105	3	Nil
	==	==	==	==

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
	==	==	==	==	==

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S.133.</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.</u>
-----------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------

Wearing apparel

Making etc.			
Cleaning and Washing	2	Nil	Nil

All other types of home work	Nil	Nil	Nil
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

<u>Total:</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
---------------	----------	------------	------------

All are employed by firms outside the
district

Outwork - Section 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
-----------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------	---------------------

All types of outwork	Nil	Nil	Nil
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----

<u>Total:</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
---------------	------------	------------	------------

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registration:

At the beginning of the year, 251 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act. During the year two new registrations were made and one lapsed, leaving a total of 252 registered premises at the end of 1972. New occupiers of offices and shops are still failing to register under the Act, and the appointed inspectors endeavour to secure registration.

Inspections:

Every effort is made to inspect all premises in a two year cycle, although it has not always been possible to carry this out. Contraventions of the Act, when found, are normally of relatively small importance but, nevertheless, occupiers are always notified of contraventions, both verbally and subsequently in writing. There has been no necessity to use the powers contained in Section 22 of the Act.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act:

The most common complaint from employees has been the lack of heating, but in no case was any contravention of the Act found when the complaint was investigated. In some cases it has been found possible to secure an improvement merely by pointing out that dissatisfied staff do not make good employees. Considerable attention has been paid to standards of lighting, and these have been found satisfactory in all rooms where people are required to work.

Mechanical Handling of Goods and the Operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations, 1968:

This only applies to a very small number of premises and so far no problems have arisen.

Accidents:

Only three accidents were reported during the year and they were as follows :-

- 1 Bruising
- 1 Sprain
- 1 Open wound

None of these accidents were very serious, although it seems highly probable that there were other accidents of a similar nature which occurred which were not reported. All occupiers of premises are acquainted of the necessity of notifying accidents, and it may be that this compulsory reporting of accidents has not been so readily accepted as is the case in factory premises.

Further statistical information on the administration of this Act is given below :-

Table A Registration and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. Registered in year</u>	<u>Total Registered at 31.12.72.</u>	<u>Premises Receiving General Inspections</u>
Offices	2	81	45
Retail Shops	-	153	89
Wholesalers etc.	-	-	-
Caterers etc.	-	18	1
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	2	252	135

Table B.

Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections)
to registered premises 282

Table C.

Analysis of Workplace of Persons Employed in
Registered Premises at end of Year

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	498
Retail Shops	689
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	10
Catering Establishments open to the public	93
Canteens	5
Fuel Storage Depots	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,295
Total Males	493
Total Females	802

Table D.

Exemptions

No applications for exemption certificates were received.

Table E.

Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted

Table F.

No. of Inspectors appointed - 2

No. of other staff employed - Nil

CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Meat Supply and Slaughtering Facilities:

No slaughterhouses have been used in the District since the war, but adequate slaughtering facilities are available in surrounding districts. There is no demand from local butchers for such facilities and retailers rely on supplies of carcase meat from wholesale meat markets. A check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat, together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Food Inspections:

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged.

425 Chocolate Bars

572 Packs of assorted frozen foods

Poultry Inspection:

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Food Premises:

There are 134 food premises in the area which fall into the following general categories (in some cases there is more than one category in a single premises) :-

General Stores and Grocers	22
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	44
Bakers and Confectioners	24
Greengrocers	13
Butchers	11
Public houses, off licences etc.	32
Chemists	7
Fish Shops	6

12 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, preserved foods etc.

265 routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year with particular attention being paid to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food Complaints:

22 complaints were received regarding food sold from shops in the District during the year. Each case was fully investigated and, where appropriate, written warnings were issued. However, many of the complaints were of a comparatively trivial nature and were possibly the result of local press publicity on this subject during the year. There is no doubt that the public generally demand a higher standard than in the past, and this is to be encouraged.

Ice-cream:

43 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. In addition, one other is registered for the manufacture of soft ice cream.

The trend towards the sale of "soft" ice cream from mobile vehicles continues. Effective control of such vehicles is difficult as they are based outside the Urban District.

29 visits were made to premises registered for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies:

There are in the District 10 registered distributors of milk and one registered dairy, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and only heat treated milk is now sold within the District.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963:

There are no egg pasteurisation plants within the District and no samples have been taken during the year.

HOUSING

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year :

(a)	By the Local Authority	::	-
(b)	By private enterprise	::	184
			<u>184</u>

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(i)	a.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	..	71
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	87
(ii)	a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.	..	-
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	-
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	3
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	30

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices:

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	..	30
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers:

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	-
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	..	30
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	-

Housing Acts:

During the year no unfit property was demolished, but three were closed. Since the programme for dealing with sub-standard property was commenced in 1955, 117 houses have actually been demolished.

Housing Act, 1969 and Housing Finance Act, 1972:

Improvement Cases (where dwellings did not have all the standard amenities)

No. of Applications received for Qualification Certificates	2
No. of Applications for Qualification Certificates under consideration at end of year	Nil
No. of Certificates of Provisional Approval issued (2 Applications received in 1971)	3
No. of Qualification Certificates issued	1
No. of Certificates refused	1

Standard Amenities Already Provided (where Application claiming the dwelling already had the standard amenities)

No. of Applications for Qualification Certificates	12
No. of Applications for Qualification Certificates under consideration at end of year	Nil
No. of Qualification Certificates issued in respect of :-	
(i) Dwelling with a rateable value of over £60 (2 applications received in 1971)	4
(ii) of £40 to £60	2
(iii) of less than £40	Nil
No. of Certificates refused	8

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The total number of housing units owned by the Council is as follows :-

Houses	740
Flats	330
Old Peoples Dwellings	61
	<u>1,131</u>

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance of duties in connection with housing management :-

To Applicants	67
Maintenance	2,791
Administration	73
Tenancies	21

Summary of Housing Applicants:

<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Active</u> <u>List</u>	<u>Deferred</u> <u>List</u>	<u>Total</u>
Married Couples with Children	91	45	136
Married Couples and Engaged Couples	45	52	97
Single Persons	27	14	41
Old Persons	97	-	97
	<u>260</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>371</u>

During the year a further 26 tenancies and 16 exchanges were arranged.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 28 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit, and 45 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON

Senior Public Health
Inspector

